

A New Cowrie Species from the Southern Philippines (Mollusca: Gastropoda)

BY

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(Plate 29)

IN RECENT YEARS a number of important discoveries have been made in the family Cypraeidae. Many new populations of well-established species have been located, extending the known ranges in several instances. None of these, however important, have been more significant than the two heretofore relatively obscure species *Notadusta martini martini* (SCHEPMAN, 1907) (see GATE, 1963), figured here in color (Plate 29, figures 5, 6) for the first time, and *Cypraea (Lyncina) leucodon* (BRODERIP, 1828) (see CLENCH, 1960); the former species is represented, as far as known, by only eight fossil shells from northwest Celebes, and two specimens from Recent times; *C. (L.) leucodon* by just two shells collected years ago from indefinite localities. A Recent specimen of the first mentioned species was obtained off Pulo Island, Marinduque, and a newly collected third specimen of the latter species off Secubun Island, Tawi Tawi Group, both in the Philippine region. Interestingly enough, one of the two *N. m. martini* (in 1962) and the *C. (L.) leucodon* shell (in 1965) were collected *ex pisce*, from fish commonly called "groupers."

To these reports there can now be added the discovery of a new cowrie species:

Cypraea (Lyncina) porteri GATE, spec. nov.

(Plate 29, Figures 1 to 4)

Shell strong, solid, ovate, broadly flattened; terminals prominent, thickly outlined; margins heavily calloused, upswept, angularly shouldered; aperture straight, very narrow; teeth numerous, fine, sharp, and restricted to edge of lip, columella, and fossula, completely traversing these adaxially; fossula small, deep; primary dorsal color dark café-au-lait, and except for a broad central axial

mantle line, upper surface generously speckled with blurred, somewhat obscure, light chestnut-brown spots, with an occasional larger dark brown spot in the marginal area; terminals orange to pale orange; teeth and interstices off-white.

Shell measurements (in millimeters):

Length	47.0
Width	34.7
Height	25.3

Number of teeth:

Lip	33
Columella	32

Although *Cypraea (Lyncina) porteri* is a remarkably distinct species it would perhaps seem most closely related to *C. (L.) sulcidentata* GRAY, 1824. The thickening of the shell margins and terminal collars, the peripheral outline, the concavely-swollen base, and the short, sharply defined teeth, for the most part, complete the visual affinity they appear to have. However, the height in relation to the width of the shell and their shell colors are distinguishing features in their separation.

This unique shell was collected during mid-April 1965. The mollusk was found living in approximately 48 feet of water just at the entrance to a coral cave. The location (type locality) is Manubul Island (5° 35' North Latitude; 120° 47' East Longitude), a part of the Tapul Group, just south of Lapac and Siasi Islands. The holotype will be deposited in the California Academy of Sciences Geology Department Type Collection, where it will bear the catalog number C. A. S. Geol. Type Coll. No. 12756.

I have named this new cowrie species in honor of Mr. Joseph A. Porter of Zamboanga City, who found the shell and was the first to suspect that it might be new to science.



Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 5



Figure 2



Figure 4



Figure 6

Cypraea (Lyncina) porteri C. N. CATE, spec. nov.

Figure 1: Dorsal View Figure 2: Ventral View
Figure 3: Right Lateral View Figure 4: Left Lateral View

Notadusta martini martini (SHEPMAN, 1907)

Figure 5: Dorsal View Figure 6: Ventral View